

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 AID-20 CU-05 L-03 /039 W

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P R 230225Z SEP 74

FM AMCONSUL SURABAYA

TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY

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AMCONSUL MEDAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 SURABAYA 0424

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASCH, ID

SUBJECT: SURABAYA AMERICAN CONSULATE SCHOOL (ACS)

REFS: A) JAKARTA 11685 B) SURABAYA 0190 (NOTAL)

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. HERE IS THE UPDATE REQUESTED BY REF A.

2. ENROLLMENT: THERE ARE 75 CHILDREN FROM 13 NATIONALITIES, AS FOLLOWS: AMERICAN 18; JAPANESE 12; AUSTRALIAN 8; BRITISH 8; GERMAN 6; DUTCH 6; FILIPINO 5; INDIAN 4; CANADIAN 3; REPUBLIC OF CHINA 2; BELGIAN 1; SWISS 1; REPUBLIC OF KOREA 1. IN ADDITION, THREE NEW CHILDREN ARE NOT YET IN OUR ETHNIC STATISTICS, FOR A TOTAL OF 78 CHILDREN.

3. OF THE FOREGOING, THE LARGEST CONTINGENT IS FROM MISSIONARY FAMILIES (16). ONLY THREE CHILDREN ARE FROM OUR CONSULATE (TWO ARE MINE AND THE OTHER IS POLITICAL OFFICER ZINGSHEIM'S), BUT DPO CHRISTY'S CHILD WILL ENTER OUR KINDERGARTEN NEXT YEAR. THERE IS ONLY ONE OTHER CONSULAR STATUS CHILD, A JAPANESE. THUS 73 OF THE 78 CHILDREN PRESENTLY AT THE ACS ARE DRAWN EVENLY FROM THE FIRMS AND INSTITUTIONS LISTED IN PARAGRAPH TWO OF REF B, PLUS THE FOLLOWING NEW ADDITIONS: RUNGKUT INDUSTRIAL PARK, WESTINGHOUSE, PT AGRICONSULT, ASIA FOUNDATION, PT FILMA SOAP, PT KIAFOOS, PRODENTA, PT HORIZON SYNTEX, PT WORMALD INT'L, JOINT SUGAR PROJECT,
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PT SUMBER AROMA, PT MI-WON INDONESIA.

4. STAFF: THERE ARE FIVE FULL TIME TEACHERS, ALL INDONESIAN, AND SEVEN PART-TIME TEACHERS, TWO OF WHOM ARE INDONESIAN. THE REMAINDER OF THE PART-TIME TEACHERS ARE EXPATRIATE DEPENDENTS WHOSE SCHOOL POSITIONS ARE NOT RLEVANT TO THEIR RESIDENCE PERMITS. WE HAVE TWO ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL, ONE OF WHOM IS INDONESIAN. WE ARE SEEKING A PART-TIME PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANT TO HANDLE FINANCES WHICH HAVE GROWN TOO LARGE AND COMPLEX FOR THE SLAPDASH BUDGETARY METHODS OF THE PAST (SEE PARAGRAPH 10 BELOW).

5. GOVERNING BODY: PRINCIPAL OFFICER OF THE AMERICAN CONSULATE CHAIRS SCHOOL BOARD EX OFFICIO, AND APPOINTS CONSULATE ADMIN OFFICER AS SECRETARY-TREASURER. REMAINING THREE MEMBERS ARE ELECTED BY THE PARENTS, AND ARE CURRENTLY GOETHE INSTITUTE DIRECTOR ZIMMERMANN, ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY COMMANDER JORDAN, AND JAPANESE VICE CONSUL IIDA. JORDAN'S WIFE HAS BEEN HANDLING ROUTINE ADMINISTRATION AND, ALONG WITH ACS "PRINCIPAL" (A MISSIONARY WIFE), PARTICIPATES IN BOARD DECISIONS.

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6. PROBLEMS: GROWTH PAINS, OUR FLIMSY LEGAL STATUS, LOW-QUALITY INDONESIAN TEACHERS, AND LACK OF ANY EXTRA-CURRICULAR FACILITIES ARE OUR BIGGEST PROBLEMS, AND THEY ARE ALL INTER-RELATED.

7. GROWTH PAINS: THE WORD HAS SPREAD THAT THE AMERICAN CONSULATE IS RUNNING A SCHOOL WITH AN AMERICAN CURRICULUM IN SURABAYA, OPEN TO ALL EXPATRIATES. THUS EVERY FEW DAYS WE ARE TOLD THAT "MORE FAMILIES ARE COMING." THIS WEEK WE WERE INFORMED THAT TEN INDIAN FAMILIES WILL ARRIVE EARLY NEXT YEAR, WITH THIRTY CHILDREN, PLUS TEN CHILDREN FROM CITIES SERVICE AND 5-10 FROM A NEW SOUTH KOREAN FIRM. OUR NEW SCHOOL BUILDING AT JALAN SUMATRA, WHICH IS ON THREE-YEAR LEASE, IS ALREADY JAMMED. SOON WE WILL HAVE TO TRANSFER KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE FOUR, PLUS A NURSERY SCHOOL BEING EVICTED FROM ITS PRESENT QUARTERS, BACK TO OUR PREVIOUS SCHOOL BUILDING ON JALAN DIPONEGORO. THERE ARE FIFTEEN EXPATRIATE CHILDREN, INCLUDING ONE AMERICAN CONSULATE CHILD AND ONE OTHER AMERICAN CHILD, IN THE NURSERY SCHOOL.

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8. THIS RAPID AND CONTINUING GROWTH HAS SEVERELY TAXED CONSULATE ADMINISTRATIVE CAPABILITIES AS WELL AS OFFICERS' TIME. CONSULATE ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT, AND THE BENEFITS OF ASSOCIATION WITH A USG FACILITY, ARE CRUCIAL AND IRREPLACEABLE FOR THE SCHOOL. WE HAVE BLOCKED ENTRY OF SOME CHILDREN ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS BUT ARE OPPOSED TO LIMITING ENROLLMENT GENERALLY BECAUSE WE BELIEVE NO EQUITABLE AND WORKABLE SYSTEM CAN BE DEvised. THE PROSPECTS ARE THUS THAT THE SCHOOL WILL CONTINUE TO GROW AND THAT THE PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH GROWTH WILL MULTIPLY.

9. LEGAL PROBLEMS: OUR ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AND OTHER GROWTH PAINS, AS WELL AS THE DIRE NEED TO UPGRADE TEACHERS' COMPETENCE, COULD BE HANDLED IF THE SCHOOL COULD BE PLACED ON A FIRM LEGAL FOUNDATION. AT PRESENT THE ONLY AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SCHOOL IS A PASSING REMARK EAST JAVA GOVERNOR NOER MADE TO GOETHE INSTITUTE DIRECTOR ZIMMERMANN SOME YEARS AGO THAT HE (THE GOVERNOR) WOULD NOT OBJECT TO A FOREIGN SCHOOL IF IT HELPED ATTRACT FOREIGN INVESTMENT. THIS HAS CERTAINLY PROVED TRUE, BUT THE GOVERNOR'S REMARK WAS NOT RECORDED ON ANY DOCUMENT, AND HIS VIEWS DO NOT APPEAR TO BE SHARED BY HIS SUBORDINATES. WE HAVE BEEN APPROACHED BY LOCAL P AND K OFFICIALS WITH QUESTIONS ABOUT TEACHERS' QUALIFICATION, TAXES, SCHOOL BOOKS, NATIONALITIES OF THE CHILDREN, AND SO FORTH. WE PARRY THESE GLANCING BLOWS BY STATING THAT THE WHOLE QUESTION OF FOREIGN SCHOOLS IS UNDER STUDY AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL IN JAKARTA, BUT HOW LONG THIS REPLY WILL BE ACCEPTED IS UNCERTAIN.

10. THERE ARE OTHER DISTURBING UNCERTAINTIES. IF GOVERNOR NOER IS TRANSFERRED OR RETIRES NEXT YEAR, OUR TATTERED LEGAL FIGLEAF DISAPPEARS. LOCAL OFFICIAL DOM COULD DISCOVER THAT TWO ETHNIC CHINESE CHILDREN ARE ATTENDING THE SCHOOL, AND ALTHOUGH THE CHILDREN'S PARENTS ARE ROC EXPATRIATES, REACT WITH CHARACTERISTIC SINOPHOBIA.

MOST SERIOUSLY, IF THE MARCH 18 MINISTERIAL DECREE IS IMPLEMENTED SCRUPULOUSLY AS IT NOW READS, WE WILL HAVE TO FACE THE PROBLEM OF DEVISING A FORMULA FOR APPORTIONING SCHOOL ASSETS AND LIABILITIES. AT PRESENT THERE IS NO SUCH FORMULA. THE THREE-YEAR LEASE ON THE JALAN SUMATRA BUILDING WAS SIGNED BY THE PRINCIPAL OFFICER AS CHAIRMAN OF THE SCHOOL BOARD. BUT THE BOARD IS NOT A LEGAL ENTITY, AND DISPOSITION OF THE BUILDING WOULD BE DIFFICULT IF THE SCHOOL IS DISSOLVED OR FORCED TO SPLIT INTO CONSULAR AND NON-CONSULAR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONTINGENTS. MANY FAMILIES HAVE PAID TUITION FOR THE FULL-YEAR, AND THE JAPANESE CONSULATE AND SEVERAL BUSINESS FIRMS HAVE LOANED OVER TWO MILLION RUPIAH TO THE SCHOOL TO LEASE AND RENOVATE THE NEW BUILDING. LAST YEAR THE SCHOOL BOARD INVESTED \$2,500 FOR RENOVATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE JALAN DIPONEGORO BUILDING, WHICH IS OWNED BY THE USG. WE HAVE ONLY A VAGUE IDEA OF THE SCHOOL'S FINANCIAL CONDITION AT PRESENT, AND THESE LIABILITIES WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO SETTLE.

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AMCONSUL MEDAN

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11. THESE FINANCIAL COMPLICATIONS, OUR DESIRE TO PROFESSIONALIZE THE SCHOOL, AND REDUCE THE CONSULATE ADMIN WORK-LOAD, ARE THE MAIN REASONS THAT WE ARE SEEKING A PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANT AT MY INSISTANCE, AS MENTIONED IN PARAGRAPH FOUR ABOVE. IF THE LEGAL ISSUE WERE RESOLVED, WE COULD RAISE TUITION AND MOVE FARTHER IN THIS DIRECTION. WE COULD HIRE A FEW PROFESSIONAL EXPATRIATE TEACHERS TO UPGRADE OUR STAFF. WE COULD APPROACH INDONESIAN AUTHORITIES FOR PERMISSION TO USE SOME OF THE ABUNDANT SPORTS FACILITIES IN THE CITY FOR OUR PHYSICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM. AT PRESENT THE ACS CHILDREN HAVE AN AREA EIGHT METERS BY EIGHT METERS SQUARE FOR EXERCISE. WE COULD RENT A BUS FOR TRANSPORTATION, WHICH AT PRESENT IS A HAPHAZARD NIGHTMARE. WE HAVE NOT DONE THESE THINGS BECAUSE WE ARE NERVOUS ABOUT DRAWING ATTENTION TO THE SCHOOL.

12. AS PARAGRAPHS TWO AND THREE ABOVE INDICATE, THERE IS NO SINGLE OVERARCHING FOREIGN INSTITUTION WITH A LARGE PROPORTION OF CHILDREN AT ACS WHICH COULD PLAY THE ROLE SUGGESTED FOR MOBIL AND UNION OIL AT MEDAN. WE DON'T HAVE ANY LINKAGE WITH PERTAMINA OR ANY POWERFUL FRIENDS EXCEPT GOVERNOR NOER, AND HIS OPINION ON THE SCHOOL HAS NOT BEEN SOLICITED FOR YEARS. NO OTHER AGENCY IN SURABAYA IS WILLING OR ABLE TO ASSUME THE ADMINISTRATIVE TASKS NOW PERFORMED FOR THE SCHOOL BY THE CONSULATE. THE MISSIONARY GROUPS COULD NOT PROVIDE COVER FOR THE SCHOOL, GIVEN THE ALREADY SENSITIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR THEIR OWN ACTIVITIES.

13. THUS THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE TO CONSULATE COVER WE PERCEIVE IS FOR
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ACS TO BECOME A BRANCH OF THE JOINT EMBASSY SCHOOL. HAVING BEEN IN-COUNTRY ONLY A FEW WEEKS, I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT PROBLEMS THIS WOULD

ENTAIL. BUT IF THE ACS
HAD TO CLOSE, AND THE ONLY OPTION WAS THE
CALVERT SYSTEM IN THE HOME, A LARGE NUMBER OF WIVES AND CHILDREN
WOULD HAVE TO REPATRIATE, PERHAPS INCLUDING MY OWN. THREE OFFICERS
IN THIS CONSULATE ARE JUST BEGINNING THEIR TOURS IN SURABAYA,
ALL WITH CHILDREN.
HOWLAND

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